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**Second Committee**
Agenda item 100 (a)
**Environment and sustainable development: implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21**

**Canada, New Zealand, Russian Federation and Turkey: draft resolution**

## Linkages and synergies among environmental and environment-related conventions

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21[1] adopted at its nineteenth special session, in particular part IV thereof, entitled "International institutional arrangements",

*Recalling also* its resolutions 53/186 of 15 December 1998, entitled "International institutional arrangements related to environment and development", and 53/242 of 28 July 1999, entitled "Report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements",

*Welcoming* the report of the Secretary-General on international institutional arrangements related to environment and development,[2]

*Taking note* of decision 20/28, entitled "Promoting interlinkages among global environmental issues and human needs", adopted on 4 February 1999 by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,[3]

*Emphasizing* that policy decisions under environmental and environment-related conventions are taken by the respective conferences of the parties, which are autonomous governing bodies,

*Recognizing* the role of the General Assembly in fostering progress in the implementation of these conventions and of the commitments contained therein,

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[1] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[2] A/54/468.

[3] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/54/25), annex.

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*Taking note with appreciation* of the relevant ongoing work on the implementation of these conventions at the national, bilateral, regional and international levels,

*Reaffirming the need*, as stipulated in part IV of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, for greater coherence in various intergovernmental organizations and processes through better policy coordination at the intergovernmental level, as well as for continued and more concerted efforts to enhance collaboration among the secretariats of relevant decision-making bodies,

1. *Encourages* the Conferences of the Parties to and permanent secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[4] the Convention on Biological Diversity[5] and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,[6] to further examine appropriate opportunities and measures to strengthen their complementarities and to improve scientific assessments of ecological linkages between the three conventions;

2. *Emphasizes* the importance of the facilitation of and support for enhancing linkages and coordination within and among environmental and environment-related conventions, including by the United Nations Environment Programme, with full respect for the status of the respective convention secretariats and the autonomous decision-making prerogatives of the conferences of the parties to the conventions concerned, and recognizes in this regard the potential key role of the environmental management group, as stipulated in General Assembly resolution 53/242;

3. *Stresses* the need to strengthen further the cooperation among the secretariats of the various environmental and environment-related conventions and other international organizations with a view to facilitating progress in implementation of the conventions at the international, regional and national levels by:

(a) Encouraging greater synergy and complementarity of activities undertaken to implement the commitments under various conventions;

(b) Identifying possible activities with potential multiple benefits and bringing them to the attention of parties and conferences of the parties in order to promote them;

(c) Promoting more effective and coherent support from international organizations and financial institutions and mechanisms for national action aimed at the implementation of the conventions, in particular in the area of capacity-building;

(d) Encouraging further scientific analyses carried out by relevant international organizations, such as the United Nations Environment Programme, the secretariats of the conventions and their subsidiary bodies and the United Nations Secretariat;

(e) Strengthening the capacity of parties to the conventions to participate effectively in the work of the conferences of the parties and other treaty bodies;

(f) Addressing practical issues, such as more effective information exchange, enhanced awareness-raising, harmonization of national reporting and formulation of integrated national strategies for sustainable development;

(g) Facilitating a more integrated and holistic approach to the implementation of environmental and environment-related conventions at the national level;

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[4] A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex I.

[5] See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

[6] A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix II.

(h) Bringing relevant issues to the General Assembly and relevant intergovernmental bodies for consideration by Member States and formulation of agreed policy recommendations with a view to promoting a more holistic approach;

4. *Invites* the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the executive secretaries of the conventions, to prepare, on an annual basis, a report on progress in the implementation of the present resolution as well as on areas requiring further consideration by the General Assembly;

5. *Decides* to include in its agenda, starting from its fifty-fifth session, a sub-item entitled "Linkages and synergies among environmental and environment-related conventions" under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", with a view to promoting a more integrated and synergistic approach to the implementation of these conventions.